

# Memo

**To:** Authorized Instructors, Programs, Students, and Instructor Authorization Applicants  
**From:** Paul Wobosel, Arizona State Fire Training Director  
**Date:** 1/21/2010  
**Re:** OSFM Training Update 1-21-10

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Authorized Instructors:

**Please make sure this information gets to your Program Managers if they are not on the Authorized Instructor Distribution List.**

Status Update:

Here is an update since the last communication sent out on 1-12-10.

- On January 13, 2010, the status of fire certification was presented and discussed at the AFSI meeting. AFSI is comprised of 5 member groups; Arizona Fire Chiefs Association, Arizona Fire Districts Association, Professional Firefighters of Arizona, Volunteer Firefighters of Arizona and the Metro Chiefs. AFSI has appointed a task force to investigate and submit recommendations to the AFSI Board for the development of an organizational, administrative and business structure that provides for the services suspended by the Department of Fire, Building and Life Safety. The Task Group is comprised of 2-3 people from the AFSI Member Organizations plus, the Department of Fire, Building, and Life Safety, State Training Committee, and the State Division of Forestry. This group will be holding a series of meetings over the next two weeks and provide updates to the AFSI Board on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Fire training data, processes, and policies have been backed up and preserved for succession.

Programs in Limbo, Community Colleges and Fire Departments:

- All certificates produced by this office were mailed out on 1-5-10. All other certifications in the system that have not been processed and mailed will be receiving refunds. *There will NOT be any additional certifications issued by this office.* We have hundreds of customers in this position. We are optimistic to begin this process with the next week to 10-days.
- I will continue to communicate information through the Authorized Instructor Distribution List as well as posting on our website.
- Program Directors and Regional POC's please make sure to direct students to our website or forward these emails. We do NOT have the capacity to take individual phone calls. Please convey to students/customers that we are sensitive to what is happening but we do NOT have the capacity to entertain individual requests. Also convey that there is no value in students contacting IFSAC directly for resolution and this practice needs to stop immediately.

- We have been contacted by numerous students as well as Community College Program Directors. We understand that this is having a significant effect on student enrollment as students have no assurances of certification. It is feared that students may seek out of state opportunities to achieve some sort of certification.

#### Students:

- Please see notation above under "Programs in Limbo". There will be no exceptions to this statement. We will work as quickly as possible to process refunds. We recognize that this may affect your employability. This situation needs to be resolved at the local level (authority having jurisdiction) or at the state level. The Office of the State Fire Marshal has no authority over the application of training certification. We are equally disappointed that we are no longer able to provide this service. We are aware of numerous members contacting their elected officials to impress upon them the impact of these recent events. This has stimulated phone calls and emails resulting in a very positive learning experience.
- For information updates, please continue to monitor our website for new postings.
- I have been in contact with Clayton Moorman, the IFSAC Manager. He informed me of a large volume of concerned calls from Arizona. He reluctantly informed me that there is nothing they can do to resolve this crisis and respectfully asked me to convey this to our members. Please stop placing calls to IFSAC directly.
- The Agency Status phone line is for Outgoing Messages Only! We will not review or respond to any messages.

#### Fire Departments, Fire Districts, and Employing Agencies:

- There will quickly become an absence of certification documentation for applicants to provide for initial hiring and promotion. We advise that you review your AHJ policies and recognize that there is no current opportunity for Fire Service Certification in the State of Arizona. We recognize that this creates a significant liability for your organization. Unfortunately, we do not have the ability to advise due to the wide variety of application of certification credentials.